

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

AUGUST 25, 2009

What's Inside:Child Abuse and
Neglect Legal
Elements Charts**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: PAULA NEESE, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT LEGAL ELEMENTS CHARTS

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff that four legal element charts have been added to the Children's Division Forms folder on staff computer desktops. The charts describe each of the statutory elements necessary in order to establish a determination of child abuse or child neglect by a preponderance of the evidence for all Child Abuse/Neglect (CA/N) investigations pertaining to physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and/or neglect. These charts were developed to provide field personnel an additional resource following the statewide rollout of the Legal Aspects training for CA/N investigations.

Staff may use the element charts to assist in determining if there is sufficient evidence in the record to establish a preponderance of the evidence for child abuse and/or neglect. The charts may also be useful for supervisory and administrative reviews, and in preparation for Child Abuse and Neglect Review Board presentations.

NECESSARY ACTION

1. Review this memorandum with all Children's Division staff.
2. Review revised Child Welfare Manual chapters as indicated below.
3. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to:

PDS CONTACTScott B. Montgomery
573-526-5408Scott.B.Montgomery@dss.mo.gov**DEPUTY DIRECTOR**Melody Yancey
573-522-8024Melody.Yancey@dss.mo.gov**CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS**

N/A

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A
RELATED STATUTE 210.110 RSMo
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A
PROTECTIVE FACTORS N/A Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A